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A Good Turfgrass Maintenance Program for Warm Season Lawns in Chesterfield County

Modern Life is conducive to outdoor living. Good turf for home lawns has acquired an importance never known before. To maintain a good turf, our warm season grasses like bermudagrass (Vamont, Midiron, Tufcote, Tifway or Common) or zoysiagrass (Meyer) need a sound fertilizer program. A spring-summer fertilizer program (April-July with 4 applications) gives good results for bermudagrass; while, zoysiagrass does best with 1 or 2 applications in April-May. Generally, the fertility requirements for the warm season grasses are met or exceeded by using any of the following fertilizer products according to label directions.

<u>Analysis*</u>	<u>Approximate lb/1000 ft²</u>	<u>Bermudagrass</u>	<u>Zoysiagrass</u>
		<u>-times applied/year-</u>	
28-3-3	4	4	1
20-5-10	5	4	1
16-4-8	7	4	1
12-4-8	8	4	1
10-10-10	10	4	1

Readily available sources of nitrogen; such as 10-10-10, may cause burning, especially in hot weather, if not watered in thoroughly after application.

Lawn Maintenance Calendar

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Fertilizing												
Liming												
Mowing												
Watering												
Aerification												
Vertical Mowing												
Broadleaf Weed Control												
Prevent Crabgrass												
Control Grubs												
Control Sod Webworm												
Disease Control												
Reestablishment Seeding												
Sodding												
Sprigging												

Where The use of bermudagrass or zoysia grass should be considered on

light sandy soils and lawn areas exposed to sun for most of the day where it is very difficult or impossible to maintain Kentucky 31 Fescue or Perennial Ryegrass.

Overseeding To provide green winter color, bermudagrass can be overseeded with perennial ryegrass at 10 lbs. per 1,000 sq. ft. Zoysiagrass cannot be overseeded with any degree of success.

Mowing Cut often enough that not more than one-third of leafage is removed per mowing. Mow at ½ - 1 inch.

Weed Control Identify the weeds and apply appropriate pesticide. Generally a 2,4-D + MCPP or 2,4-D + Dicamba (Banvel) applied in spring or fall when weeds are actively growing will control chickweed and garlic and most cool season broadleaf weeds.

Crabgrass Control Preemergence crabgrass herbicides include DCPA (Rid, Dacthal), Bensulide (Benasan, Presan, Turfbuilder Plus 4), Bandane (Bandane, Halt Plus), Benefin (Balan) and Terbutol (AZAK).

Disease Control Generally pesticides are not necessary, but where high fertilizer application and dense turfgrass is maintained there are potential disease problems.

April and May applications of Dyrene, Fore, Zineb, Tersan LSR, Daconil, Bromosan or Acti-dione-Thiram.

July and August applications of same of Koban, Tersan SP or Terrazola.

Lime Have soil tested periodically (every 2-3 years). Lime so that soil is kept at pH 6.0-6.5. (Contact Extension Agent for how).

Seed For areas with thin shade or full direct sun use:

Zoysia

Meyer - sprigs or sod

For areas with full direct sun throughout the day use:

Bermudagrass

*Common - seeded

*Vamont - sprigs or sod

*Tufcote - sprigs or sod

*Midiron - sprigs or sod